



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

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HOGSETT ANNOUNCES CONVICTION OF SULLIVAN COUNTY MAN ON FEDERAL FIREARMS CHARGES

Local man prosecuted as part of U.S. Attorney's Violent Crime Initiative

PRESS RELEASE

SULLIVAN – Joseph H. Hogsett, the United States Attorney, announced this afternoon the guilty plea and sentencing of Douglas A. Elwell, age 42, of Sullivan County. Elwell, who was sentenced in Terre Haute today by U.S. District Judge William T. Lawrence, was charged by federal indictment in March of this year with multiple counts of illegally possessing a firearm as a convicted felon. According to court records, Elwell had a prior Sullivan County conviction for dealing in methamphetamine. At the time he was arrested, Elwell was serving a term of probation in Sullivan County on separate charges of possessing methamphetamine precursors.

“Our Violent Crime Initiative aims to do one thing, and one thing only: take the worst of the worst off the streets of Sullivan County,” Hogsett said. “This latest conviction reiterates our dedication to stamping out violent crime through the aggressive federal prosecution of repeat, violent offenders.”

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew J. Rinka, who prosecuted the case for the government, on July 19, 2011, Sullivan County Sheriff Deputies executed a search warrant at the residence of Douglass Elwell, at which time they located six firearms, including three rifles, two handguns, and a shotgun. Deputies also located and confiscated three silencers during the search, one of which was fitted for a rifle found in the residence. Deputies also located drug paraphernalia and synthetic drugs, including synthetic marijuana and so-called “bath salts.”

This prosecution was the result of a collaborative investigation as part of the U.S. Attorney's Violent Crime Initiative, which included significant assistance from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, as well as the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department.

Announced in March of 2011, the Violent Crime Initiative (VCI) represents a district-wide strategy to work with local law enforcement and county prosecutors to combat drug traffickers and criminals that use and carry firearms in their illegal activities. In the first nine months of the initiative, the VCI produced a dramatic increase in the number of gun-related charges brought federally – from just 14 felony possession charges in 2010 to 103 last year.

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